

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee  
Monthly meeting minutes, August 13th, 2018, 7:00pm  
Downstairs library area

Committee members in attendance: Anne Miller, Nick Seifert, Becky Wigg, Ed Hutchinson, Wes Cate

Members of the public in attendance: Hiro Yamamoto

- Select a facilitator
  - Anne volunteered
- Public comment - 5 min
- Announcements - 1 min
- Agenda modification - 1 min
- Approval of previous minutes
- Business
  - Act 174 update. - 2 min
  - Discussion about the Marshfield Dam (if needed). - 10 min
  - Climate change discussion follow up meetings (if needed). - 5 min
  - Twinfield solar and weatherization update (if needed)
  - Discussion about grants or money for charging stations.
  - Presentation from solar distributors (if needed)
  - Plainfield update - 5 min
- Draft agenda for next meeting - 1 min
- Public comment
  - Hiro saw our agenda at the Village Store, came to check it out.
  - Nick suggested giving Hiro a quick summary of committee topics, actions, etc. which was done.
- Announcements
  - Anne announced that on the 22nd she is showing a film called “Decoding the Weather Machine” about the interactions between weather and climate. This is the first part. 7:00pm
    - The second half of this will be in September.
  - Next tuesday (8/21) is the selectboard meeting related to approving the town plan. 7:00pm.
- Approval of previous minutes
  - Motioned and approved.
- Act 174 update
  - Nick summarized the status of this work:
    - Anne, Becky and Nick had created a draft and submitted this to CVRPC for feedback.
    - Due to various issues, feedback has not yet been received. Bonne at CVRPC asked for a grant extension, and is hoping that is approved so she can provide feedback to us.
    - Once that feedback is received then the same group will make another draft, and then figure out the best way to adopt it.
- Twinfield update
  - Anne summarized the status of weatherization and solar efforts at Twinfield.
    - At the moment this work is a nonstarter due to school consolidation efforts. (Because twinfield/cabot did not agree to consolidate, there is uncertainty about what will happen next year.)
    - Anne and the others involved in this group are working on a presentation to give on this topic when the time is right.
- Solar distributors/contractors
  - Wes has spoken with Sun Common about this, as well as two other contractors. Sun Common doesn't seem very interested in coming, and the contractors did not want to come if Sun Common was there.
  - Anne suggested something which might be interesting at this event would be to have Bob and Rich's electric cars, any electric bikes, etc.
  - Becky asked what's next, and when this might happen.
  - Anne suggested doing this at the Marshfield Fall Foliage festival, which is September 30th.

- Anne will reach out to Susan to find out if this can work.
- Wes will reach out to the contractors to see if this works.
- Wes will reach out to Rich and Bob about bringing their electric cars to this as well.
- Charging station grant
  - New date says “early fall”. So need to follow up in a month or so.
- Marshfield dam
  - Michael Billingsly wants to present two things: Information about the current CPG filing and meetings related to GMP dam upgrades; safety issues related to dam construction.
  - CPG updates:
    - The CPG process is being used to address any potential safety concerns.
      - Status number 18-2549-PET with the public utility commission website. <https://epuc.vermont.gov/>
    - There will be a hearing occurring soon by the PUC on this petition.
    - Michael summarized some of the salient points about the upcoming hearing, including: some of the work GMP has already done and documents supplied; people who have filed to present at the hearing; and more.
    - Michael discussed that they have already done some work on the service spillway, such as adding railings, blocking the service spillway, etc.
  - Safety updates:
    - The service spillway is currently blocked. So the only way to lower the reservoir level is using the penstock, or going over the emergency spillway.
      - This work is part of upgrading the service spillway so that it can be remotely controlled from a GMP office in Colchester.
    - The current CPG filing does not include any modifications to the emergency spillway.
    - There is also a question about how exactly an evacuation would happen, who and how this is coordinated, etc. This is addressed through the Emergency Action Plan.
    - Also, the emergency spillway is currently unfaced, so any significant release would likely cause significant erosion, and possibly a dam cutback leading to a failure.
  - Michael suggests that Marshfield file for party status so that they have a chance to weigh in on the process.
  - The PUC meeting on this is August 27th.
    - This is the “Prehearing conference,” which is an opportunity for GMP to try and get the hearing on the issue thrown out and immediately proceed with the work.
    - Michael’s intent is that by Plainfield having party status, they will require GMP to go to a hearing, and present all evidence.
  - Michael created maps for Plainfield for flooding analysis (from FEMA data) and also a map for dam failure and emergency release to illustrate the scope of impact.
    - Michael showed the same FEMA and dam release maps for Marshfield.
    - Becky asked about map creation, and Michael mentioned that the CVRPC helped to create these, and could do the same for Marshfield, though they charge for this.
  - Nick asked Michael about how to get Marshfield involved in this. The steps and involvement are roughly:
    - Speak with the selectboard and ask them to file for party status. This gives them the right to object to what GMP is proposing, if they feel it does not meet the needs of the town.
    - Once party status has been file for, someone from the selectboard, or a delegate, would need to attend the meeting on 8/27, and future meetings, to understand the proposed plan. Based on this, marshfield could then object, or not, to the proposal.
    - Michael has said that he is familiar with how to obtain party status, and can help if needed.
    - He also had suggestions for how Bobbi can get help from the PUC clerk.
- Plainfield update
  - The Town Clerk office in Plainfield had an energy audit, and it’s terrible. There were plenty of recommendations from the audit. More to come.
- Next meeting planned for 9/10, instead of 9/3, to avoid labor day.
- Draft agenda for next meeting
  - Select a facilitator

- Public comment
- Announcements
- Agenda modification
- Approval of previous minutes
- Business
  - Act 174 update.
  - Discussion about the Marshfield Dam.
    - Selectboard meeting (8/21)
    - PUC pretrial hearing (8/27) 10:30am
  - Climate change discussion follow up meetings (if needed).
    - Twinfield solar and weatherization update (if needed).
  - Discussion about grants or money for charging stations (if needed).
  - Presentation from solar distributors
  - Plainfield update
- Draft agenda for next meeting